

the  
**SLATER**  
family



MISSIONARIES TO  
**IRELAND**

## MINISTRY UPDATE

JANUARY 2023

Wow, it is hard to believe that we are already at the end of another year! 2022 had its challenges, like always, but it truly was a wonderful year. We wanted to take a few moments and share some of the highlights of this year. We appreciate you all more than we can express. Your faithful love, prayers, and support are what enables us to stay and minister in the Republic of Ireland.


We took our first furlough since arriving in Ireland from January to June. While “reverse culture shock” kicked in strong at times (and we realised just how much we’ve changed living overseas), it was truly a wonderful experience. We traveled over 27,000 miles, visited States, and were in churches- both new and supporting. We spent precious times with our families and friends. We were able to see every member of both of our immediate families, some of whom we hadn’t seen since before we moved. We were encouraged by so many and humbled by the outpouring of love shown to us. If we didn’t make it to your church, don’t worry! We haven’t forgotten about you; we just had no more empty spaces in our schedule. Our next furlough should be in 2024.



This summer we FINALLY hosted Camp VP again. Due to Covid restrictions, it had been two years since our last camp. We hosted a wonderful church from Fort Worth, TX, who came to help run the camp. We didn’t really know what to expect since our teen ministry had been on pause since Covid started. Honestly, we were preparing ourselves for a sparse group of students. But God amazed us once again; we took 32 teens from Mallow and there were another 10 from Tralee! It was a wonderful week where we saw God move. There were several salvations and many other spiritual decisions made. Another amazing development was having five interns help us with camp who had graduated from VP and completed discipleship. We watched in gratitude as young adults into whom we had invested so much of our lives poured themselves into others.

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**MAILING ADDRESS**   **SENDING CHURCH**   **SUPPORT ADDRESS**

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Henry Baptist Church  
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McDonough, GA 30253  
770.914.1191

 GAP Missions  
PO Box 185  
McDonough, GA 30253  
770.231.3198



Our church has never celebrated Thanksgiving, since it is an American holiday. In November we accomplished a month of “gratitude challenges” and spent time each day focusing on the blessings of the Lord. We completed the month with the Lord’s Supper. It was such a sweet time of unity and reflection on the cost of our salvation. This Christmas was also a wonderful time as we had our first Christmas dinner since Covid and enjoyed our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services with no restrictions. Covid has certainly changed our hearts to be thankful for even the seemingly small things in ministry!



We have continued to focus on discipleship and outreach in our church. We’ve seen many people begin their discipleship journeys this year, and it is so encouraging to witness this momentum, which had slowed during the lockdowns. Lives are being changed by the power of the Gospel.

As a family, we had some pretty big milestones as well. Josiah was baptised at our sending church this summer before we returned home. It was a wonderful day where we were able to celebrate what the Lord has done in his life. Abigail and Josiah were both able to participate in several weeks of camp and VBS before we came back to Ireland.

We began our third year of homeschooling in August. We had been praying for a way to meet other Christian homeschooling families, which are relatively rare in our part of the world. In September we learned of just such a group meeting every Friday in Ballincollig, about forty-five minutes from us, and we quickly joined! It has been such a joy and a massive answer to prayer to fellowship with these families and for our children to have access to friends their age who are being raised with the same Christian values!

I’ll end our letter with what could easily be the most exciting day of the year- Emily and I are officially Irish citizens! During the ceremony, our hearts were filled with gratitude to our Lord. We’ve lived in Ireland for nearly 7 years now, and this citizenship represents many tears, trials, joys, and so many life events. The Lord’s faithfulness was the singular thread that wove them all together. Please praise Him with us, and pray for us as we begin the process of applying for citizenship for our three oldest kids (Noah and Lydia were born dual citizens).

Thank you so much for your support and your prayers for us. If you are ever interested in coming to visit us or bringing a team over to help us with the ministry here, we would love to hear from you! There are always opportunities to get involved. God bless!

***John, Emily, Abigail, Josiah, Micah, Noah and Lydia Slater***

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## **Praises & Prayers**

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1. Pray for our disciples and disciplers, especially the new members getting started.
2. Pray for Mallow Bible Fellowship and Tralee Bible Fellowship.
3. Pray for Emily’s continuing medical needs.
4. Pray for the purchase of a building for the church in Mallow.
5. Would you please prayerfully consider joining our ministry?